

THE
T R I A L
OF

The Rev. Mr. JAMES ALTHAM,

Of HARLOW, in the County of ESSEX;

Vicar of St. Olave Jewry; Rector of St. Martin, Iron-
monger-Lane; and one of his Majesty's Justices of
the Peace for the County of Essex;

F O R

Adultery, Defamation, and Obscenity,

I N T H E

Consistorial and Episcopal Court of London, at
DOCTORS COMMONS.

Setting forth the Whole of the Evidence in that
ASTONISHING TRIAL.

Entered at Stationers Hall.

L O N D O N :

Printed for G. LISTER, No. 46, Old Bailey.

MDCCLXXXV.

THE
FIRST
W. Musgrave

ON THE

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FOR

ADULTERY, D. M. M. and O. M. M.

IN THE

DOES ORS COMMONS

AND THE

OF THE

LONDON

PRINTED BY G. L. L. L. L.

1800

THE
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OF
The Rev. Mr. JAMES ALTHAM,

L I B E L.

THE libel charges that the Rev. James Altham was legally married to Sufanna Parkhurst, now Sufanna Altham, and that they have lived and cohabited together, as lawful husband and wife. That, notwithstanding such marriage,

riage, the said Rev. James Altham gave a letter to Ann Saunders, addressed to her, desiring her to read it at her leisure; and that such letter contained many strong expressions of love and regard; and, if the said James Altham was to die he would leave her two hundred pounds; and that, if his wife died, he would marry her, if he had not a quarter of an hour to live.

The libel also alledges, that the sum of sixty pounds was afterwards paid by the said Rev. James Altham, that such letter might be cancelled, and all conversation relating thereto suppressed as soon as possible.

Also that the said Rev. James Altham appointed to meet the said Ann Saunders in a place called the Shrubbery, and that she met him accordingly; and that then and there the said Rev. James Altham, and the said Ann Saunders, committed the crime of adultery together; and that, on another day, the said James Altham prevailed on the said Ann Saunders to lie with him, in the entry or passage of the house inhabited by Mr. John Edwards, and that the said James Altham and Ann Saunders again committed the foul crime of adultery together.

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The said James Altham is also charged with having confessed that he had twice lain with the said Ann Saunders, and thereby committed the foul crime of adultery with her.

That the said James Altham is vicar of St. Olave Jewry, and rector of St. Martin, Ironmonger-lane.

That the said James Altham, speaking of his amours in public company, affirmed that Mrs. Elizabeth Wenham had kissed and smacked him, and called him "her dear Jemmy;" that he spoke very indecently of the said Mrs. Elizabeth Wenham; and intimated that her husband, Mr. John Wenham, was not a sufficient man for her; and that Mrs. Wenham wanted him, the said James Altham, to lie with her.

That the said James Altham had said that he was of a very warm constitution, and that he had been concerned with fifty women in the parish of Harlow, in Essex; and, as a proof of the warmth of his constitution, said that he went home and laid with his wife immediately after lying with the said Ann Saunders in the Shrubby.

That

That the said James Altham said he kept a girl whilst he was at college, and mentioned how he supported her. That he was very ungarded in his conversation, and frequently expressed him in obscene and indecent terms, such as were highly improper for a clergyman to make use of.

That he frequently importuned Ann Tavner to be criminally acquainted with him; and tried his utmost to prevail on her to consent to gratify his criminal inclinations, by promising what a friend he would be to her. That after trying every method of persuasion with her, he even attempted to force her; and once, in particular, he called upon her in the morning, and began putting his hand in her bosom, and then tried to put his hand up her petticoats, and unbuttoned his breeches; and, if she had not resisted to her utmost, she verily believes he would have carnally known her, and thereby have committed the crime of adultery.

That he called on Sarah Smith, wife of James Smith, of Harlow, and endeavoured to prevail on her to take her sister, the said Ann Saunders, from Mr. Edwards's, where she then lived as a servant, because Mr. Edwards was a single man ;

the Rev. Mr. James Altham. 7

man; and that he then told the said Sarah Smith, that he loved Ann Saunders beyond any other woman; that he had been dying for her eight or nine months; and that was the reason why he wished the said Sarah Smith would take her from the said Mr. Edwards's; that he had even fainted away when he had seen her; and that Mrs. Altham had told him she was sure he loved that girl, and that he had confessed it to her. He also informed the said Sarah Smith, that he had made the said Ann Saunders some presents.

The libel further sets forth, that the said Ann Saunders confessed that the said James Altham had once lain with her in the Shrubbery, behind Mr. Edwards's house; and another time in the entry or passage of the said house, &c.

Depositions of witnesses examined on certain articles or interrogatories given in and admitted in a certain cause of office now depending in the consistorial and episcopal court of London, between John Wenham, Esq; of the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex and diocese
of

of London, the party promoting the said cause on the one part; and the Rev. James Altham, clerk, a parishioner or inhabitant of the said parish of Harlow, and vicar of the parish of St. Olave Jewry, London, to which the parish of St. Martin, Ironmonger Lane, London, is annexed by act of parliament, the party against whom the said cause is promoted, on the other part; which said depositions were taken at the Crown Inn, situate in the parish of Harlow, aforesaid, by virtue of a commission from the Right Reverend Father in God, Robert, by Divine Permission, Lord Bishop of London, directed to the Worshipful Francis Simpson, Doctor of Laws, Surrogate of the Worshipful William Wynne, also Doctor of Laws, the Vicar General of the said Bishop of London, and Official principal of the Consistorial and Episcopal Court of London aforesaid, lawfully constituted.

Depositions of witnesses examined on certain articles or interrogatories given in and admitted in a certain cause of office now depending in the consistorial and episcopal court of London, between John Wehman, Esq; of the parish of St. Martin in the county of Essex and diocese

IN THE

Consistorial and Episcopal Court of
London, at Doctors Commons.

4th of April, 1780.

DEPOSITIONS.

The Deposition of Ann Saunders.

ANN SAUNDERS, of the parish of Takeley, in the county of Essex, spinster, aged seventeen years and upwards, a witness produced and sworn. To the first and fourth articles or interrogatories objected to the said Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause,

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she deposes, and says, she has known the said James Altham upwards of these six years last past, and first came to know him by her going to live as servant with the late Dr. Fisher, who then lived in the said parish of Harlow, in a house next adjoining to the said James Altham's, and being such near neighbours, they, the said Dr. Fisher, and James Altham, frequently visited each other. That the said James Altham was at the time she first knew him, and is now, as she verily believes, a priest or minister in holy orders of the church of England, and she, the deponent, hath very frequently heard him perform divine service, in the parish church of Harlow, aforesaid, on Sundays both in the forenoon and afternoon; and she hath heard and believes that he hath a living in London.

That the said James Altham was, at the time she first knew him, and is now, as she verily believes, a married man, and the lawful husband of Susanna Altham, formerly Parkhurst, whom the deponent well knows, and hath known ever since she hath known the said James Altham: and they the said James Altham, and the said Susanna Altham, formerly Packhurst, then lived and cohabited, and ever since
she

she hath known them have lived and cohabited together as lawful husband and wife, and always owned and acknowledged each other to be lawful husband and wife, and were and are so commonly accounted, reputed, and taken to be by their relations, friends, neighbours, and acquaintances: and the said Rev. James Altham hath had by his said wife, three children, two of which are now living; and further she knows not to depose to the said articles.

To the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 13th articles, she deposes and says, that she continued in the service of the said Dr. Fisher at his house at Harlow aforesaid, down to the time of his death, which happened sometime in the month of May, in the year 1778; and a Mrs. Mason, whom the said Dr. Fisher was upon the point of marrying, remained in his house for about three quarters of a year after his death; and the deponent remained with her; and then her fellow witness John Edwards came and took the said house, and succeeded Dr. Fisher in his profession of surgeon and manmidwife, and the deponent was retained in the service of the said John Edwards, and continued with him until Michaelmas last, and the

said Rev. James Altham still continued to live in the next adjoining house: and she further saith, that sometime about the latter end of the year 1778, but more precisely she cannot recollect, the said Rev. James Altham began to take very particular notice of her, such as taking her by the hand, and gently squeezing it, and making use of very endearing expressions, and smiling upon her; and a short time before Christmas, in the said year 1778, he met this deponent and her fellow servant Elizabeth Purkis, as they were walking together in the road, in the parish of Harlow aforesaid; and he called this deponent to him, and said he wanted to speak to her, and this deponent went to him, about the distance of nine or ten yards from the said Elizabeth Purkis; and he then asked the deponent whether she would accept of a pair of silver buckles, and she made answer, no, she did not want any, neither would she accept of any, or to that effect, and they then parted; and about a fortnight afterwards, the said James Altham, came into the said Mrs. Mason's house, late Dr. Fisher's as aforesaid, and asked the deponent where her mistress, the said Mrs. Mason was; and the deponent told him in the parlour; and he then gave the deponent a pair of
silver

silver shoe buckles into her hand, and immediately went into the parlour to Mrs. Mason: and on the Wednesday following Easter Sunday, in the year 1779, he gave this deponent a pocket book, with a silver clasp, and a set of instruments. That from the time he first began to be particular with the deponent, until sometime about the beginning of the month of June last, he took many opportunities of frequenting her company, and being alone with her, and at those times behaved to her with the greatest fondness and affection; and some short time before Easter in the said year 1779, but more particularly she cannot recollect, the said James Altham gave the deponent a letter, and told her to read it at her leisure, and when she had read it, return it to him, or burn it; that such letter was addressed to this deponent, and contained many strong professions of love and regard for her from the said James Altham; and the deponent remembers in particular that he mentioned in the said letter, that if he the said James Altham was to die, he would leave her the deponent two hundred pounds; and that if Mrs. Altham, thereby meaning his said wife, was dead, he would marry her, the deponent, even if he had not a quarter of an hour to live; and the

the said letter contained words to the very same effect; that the whole series and contents of the said letter were, as she verily believes, of the proper hand writing of the said James Altham; and she is further confirmed in her belief, by reason that, previous to her receiving the said letter, she had seen the hand writing of the said James Altham in a book which he had made this deponent a present of in Dr. Fisher's time, and both the said hand writings were in every respect similar, and also that several persons who afterwards saw the said letter, said they knew it to be of his hand writing.

And she further saith, that on or about the seventh day of June last, the said letter was found in this deponent's possession by her fellow witness John Edwards, and he on the same day gave it to her fellow witness James Smith, this deponent's sister's husband, and the same soon after came to the ears of the said James Altham; and he thereupon caused a treaty to be entered into between the articulate William Lushington, of Mark Hall, in the county of Essex, Esquire, and the said James Smith, for the purpose of obtaining the said letter out of the hands of the said James Smith; and about a week, as she

she now best remembers, after the discovery of the said letter, the said William Lushington, as she has heard and verily believes, but she was not present at the transaction, did by the order and direction of the said James Altham, pay the sum of sixty pounds to the said James Smith, at the house of Mr. Edward Wise, his attorney, at Harlow aforesaid, in consideration of his giving up the said letter so as aforesaid written and delivered to this deponent ; and the said James Smith did then, as she has heard and verily believes, deliver such letter to the said William Lushington, for the use of the said James Altham.

And she further saith, that on or about the twenty-eight day of April last, the said James Altham appointed this deponent to meet him in the evening, at a place called the Shrubby, being behind the house of the said John Edwards, situate in Harlow aforesaid ; and the deponent accordingly, on the same evening, it being dark, met the said James Altham ; and he then and there prevailed over the deponent to lie with him ; and they then and there had the carnal knowledge and use of each other's bodies, and thereby committed adultery and fornication together ;

ther ; and another day, happening some time about the latter end of May last, to the best of her recollection as to the time, the said James Altham found this deponent alone at the house of the said John Edwards, in Harlow aforesaid, and he again prevailed on this deponent to lie with him in the entry or passage of the said house ; and they then and there had the carnal use and knowledge of each other's bodies, and thereby again committed adultery, fornication or incontinency together : and she further saith, that in the course of their intimacy together, he the said James Altham frequently requested this deponent to come and live with him ; and that if she would consent to come and live with him, he would soon get rid of his wife, thereby meaning the said Susanna Altham ; and once in particular this deponent remembers his saying to her, that he would not mind murdering his wife and children, if this deponent would but come and live with him, or he expressed the same in words to the very same effect ; and further to the said articles she knows not to depose.

To the seventeenth article she deposes and says, that she well remembers the said James Altham's saying to her some-
time

time in the month of April, that he could lie with Mrs. Seex whenever he chose, or he expressed himself to that effect, and he then spoke of, meant, and intended Elizabeth Seex (wife of Henry Seex the younger, of Harlow aforesaid, and Elizabeth Seex of the same place, spinster) and that he could have the carnal use and knowledge of their bodies whenever he chose; and further she knows not to depose to the said article.

The same witness on interrogatories, administered on behalf of the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause.

To the first interrogatory she answers that she has known the said Rev. James Altham, clerk, upwards of six years, and has a perfect knowledge of him; that he is about forty-one years of age; that he has lived and resided in the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex, as she verily believes, a considerable number of years, but she cannot say how many years in particular, having never heard any thing against the character or conversation of the said James Altham as a clergyman, till within these three or four years last past, and never heard any body give him a bad word till within that time; and further

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she cannot answer to the said interrogatory.

To the second interrogatory she answers, that she has heard that the said James Altham has been married to, and lived and cohabited with two wives before his present wife ; but farther she knows not to answer to the said interrogatory.

To the third interrogatory she answers, that for these three or four years last past, she has looked upon the said James Altham as an inconsistent, passionate, whimsical man, but she never thought him disordered in his senses ; that he has been guilty of many acts of an extravagant nature, but she never heard till very lately that he was thought to be out of his mind ; that she believes it might be about three quarters of a year ago that he was first considered and looked upon as a crazy man, but she never heard till within these four or five months last past, that it became dangerous to trust him alone, and improper to permit him to perform the functions of his office as a clergyman, or to do or transact any business whatsoever that she has heard, but she cannot form any belief or disbelief concerning the same ; that the said James Altham some
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time about the month of October last, was put under the care of Dr. Munro, and confined in a private mad-house as a person of an insane mind ; that she cannot say in what light he has been looked upon, or spoke of, for these three or four years last past, by his relations, friends, neighbours and acquaintance, otherwise than that she believes he is generally considered as a man of a loose and wild turn ; and further, or otherwise, she knows not to answer to the said interrogatory.

ANN SAUNDERS.

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ANN SAUNDERS.

*4th of April, 1780.**The Deposition of James Smith.*

JAMES SMITH, of the parish of Harlowe, in the county of Essex, carpenter, aged twenty-seven years, a witness produced and sworn. To the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth articles, he deposes and says, that he has known the said Rev. James Altham, clerk, for upwards of five years last past, and came so to know him by living in the same neighbourhood with him, and by working for him in his business of a carpenter.

And he further saith, that sometime in the beginning of last summer, his fellow witness John Edwards, who is a surgeon and man-midwife, and lives in the said parish of Harlow, called upon this deponent and his wife, and fellow witness Sarah Smith, and shewed them a letter, which he told them he had found in the possession of Nancy, thereby meaning his fellow witness Ann Saunders, spinster, this deponent's wife's sister, and who then lived

lived as servant to the said John Edwards; and he the said John Edwards then intimated that the said letter was written by the said James Altham, and he read the contents thereof to this deponent and his said wife, and it then appeared so as not to leave a doubt upon the deponent's mind, that the said letter was written by the said James Altham, though the same was not signed with his name; that the said John Edwards did not then leave the said letter in the deponent's possession, but took it away with him; that the deponent took the first opportunity of seeing the said James Altham upon it, and taxed him in the severest manner with having seduced the said Ann Saunders, and with having wrote the said letter; and after much warm conversation on the subject, the particulars of which the deponent cannot now recollect, he confessed that he had lain with her, thereby meaning that he the said James Altham had had the carnal use of the body of the said Ann Saunders, and that he had a very great regard for her; and though the said James Altham did not then in express terms confess that he had wrote the said letter, he did not pretend to deny it; that the deponent afterwards called upon the said Ann Saunders, at the house of the said John

John Edwards, and taxed her with the said letter, and her criminal intercourse with the said James Altham; and the said Ann Saunders confessed that she had received the said letter from the said James Altham, and that he had seduced her to lie with him, thereby meaning that he the said James Altham had had the carnal use and knowledge of her body; that the deponent judging it proper that he should have possession of the letter, soon afterwards called upon the said John Edwards for it, and he delivered the same to him; that in a very few days after the deponent had got possession of the letter, he received a message from William Lushington, of Mark Hall, in the said county of Essex, Esquire, desiring to see him at the house of the said John Edwards; that the deponent immediately went, and there found the said William Lushington; and the said James Altham and John Edwards were in the room with him; that the said William Lushington began upon the subject, and said that as matters had happened as they were, it would be better to settle them; that though he came to speak for Mr. Altham, thereby meaning the said James Altham, he could not say much in his behalf, or to that effect; that Mr. Lushington then proposed terms

terms upon which the deponent should give up the said letter ; and the deponent said he would consider of them, and let Mr. Lushington know, and they then parted ; that after another meeting upon the subject, the terms were finally agreed upon between Mr. Lushington and this deponent, and he appointed this deponent to meet at the house of Mr. Edward Wise, his attorney, in Harlow aforesaid ; that they accordingly met on the day appointed, which, as the deponent now best recollects, was about a fortnight after the discovery of the said letter ; and the said Mr. Lushington, by the order and discretion of the said James Altham, as the deponent verily believes, by reason that he was present and in the presence of the said Mr. Edward Wise, paid the sum of sixty pounds to this deponent, in consideration of his giving up the said letter ; and the deponent did then deliver such letter to the said James Altham : that such letter contained many strong expressions and professions of fondness and love for and towards the said Ann Saunders, but the deponent at this distance of time does not remember any in particular.

And he lastly saith, that in the course of the said treaty, the said James Altham
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confessed to this deponent that he had twice lain with the said Ann Saunders (thereby meaning that he had twice had the carnal use and knowledge of the body of the said Ann Saunders) once in the Shrubbery behind the house of the said John Edwards, in Harlow aforesaid, and the other time, to the best of the deponent's recollection and belief, in the entry of the said house; and the said Ann Saunders, on or about the time of the treaty abovementioned, or soon after, confessed in the presence of this deponent and his said wife, that the said James Altham had lain with her twice; thereby meaning that the said James Altham had twice had the carnal use and knowledge of her body; and the deponent verily and in his conscience believes the same to be true; and the said James Altham hath thereby committed the crime of adultery, he being a married man; and further he knows not to depose to the said articles.

The same witness on the interrogatories administered on the part and behalf of the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause.

To the first interrogatory, he answers, that he has known the said
Rev.

Rev. James Altham, clerk, upwards of five years, that he is not otherwise acquainted with him than as a neighbour. That the respondent thinks the said James Altham may be between forty and fifty years of age; that the respondent believes he has lived in the said parish of Harlow, upwards of ten or twelve years; that till the matter which the respondent has herein before deposed to, broke out, he always looked upon the said James Altham as a very decent, charitable, good sort of man, and he was generally esteemed in the parish and neighbourhood of Harlow, and elsewhere, as the respondent verily believes, to be a very worthy, honest, and conscientious person, and as an excellent clergyman.

To the second interrogatory, he answers, that the said James Altham has been married to, and lived and cohabited with two wives, before his present wife, as he verily believes; and the respondent never heard to the contrary, but that he the said James Altham behaved to, and treated both his said former wives with the greatest tenderness and affection, and in every respect conducted himself towards them as a good husband.

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To the third interrogatory, he answers, that since the affair he has above deposed to, has broke out; he has thought the said James Altham hath had rather a wild look about him, but the respondent does not know, or remember to have heard, that he has been guilty of any wild, or extravagant actions, since, or before, this matter broke out, so as to denote him a man out of his senses. That the respondent hath heard people say, that he the said James Altham, would run on, and talk rather wildly, within these nine or ten months, but he does not think, that he is a man that is generally esteemed to be out of his mind, by his neighbours and acquaintances. That the respondent now recollects that he has seen the said James Altham up at three o'clock in the morning, walking about, which he thought very odd, and he has heard other people say, that he, the said James Altham, hath been walking about at two o'clock in the morning. That till the circumstance of his seducing the said Ann Saunders came out, no one, as the respondent verily believes, ever thought him, in the least out of his senses, and the respondent thinks, that the discovery of it very much hurt his mind; and he was soon after put under the care of a man, and, as the

the respondent has heard, sent to Dr. Munro, as an insane person; but how long he continued with Dr. Munro, the respondent cannot say, but he believes it was no great while; and further he knows not to answer to the said interrogatory.

JAMES SMITH.

4th April, 1780.

The Deposition of Edward Wise.

EDWARD WISE, of the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex, gentleman, aged forty-five years and upwards, a witness produced and sworn. To the 1st and 4th articles, he deposes and says, that he hath known the Rev. James Altham, clerk, for upwards of twenty years last past; and for these ten or twelve years last past that he hath resided in the said parish of Harlow, this deponent hath known him more intimately; that for these several years last past, the said James Altham hath been and is now, as he verily

rily believes, a priest or minister in holy orders of the church of England, by reason that the deponent hath frequently heard him read the absolution, and administer the sacrament, and perform divine service in the parish church of Harlow aforesaid, on Sundays. That the deponent hath frequently heard the said James Altham say, and he verily believes, that he is the vicar and incumbent of the parish of St. Olave Jewry, London, to which the parish of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, is annexed, by act of parliament, within the diocese of London; and the deponent hath no other reason but to believe that he, the said James Altham, hath been rightly and lawfully instituted in and to the vicarage of St. Olave Jewry, and rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, and inducted into the real, actual, and corporal possession thereof; and for and as the lawful vicar of the said vicarage of St. Olave Jewry, and rector of the said rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger Lane, the said James Altham, for some years last past, hath been and now is, as he verily believes, accounted, reputed, and taken to be. That the said James Altham is now, and for several years last past has been, a married man, and the lawful husband of Susanna Altham,
for

formerly Parkhurst, and they have ever since their marriage lived and cohabited together as lawful husband and wife, and always acknowledged each other to be such ; and were and are so commonly accounted, reputed, and taken to be, by their relations, friends and acquaintance ; and they have now two children, a son and daughter, living, by their said marriage.

To the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh articles, he deposes and says, that some time on or about the month of June last, but more particularly he cannot recollect, the said James Altham called upon this deponent at his house at Harlow aforesaid, and told him that an affair had happened between him and Mr. Edwards's maid, thereby meaning his fellow witness Ann Saunders, spinster, who then lived servant with the said Mr. Edwards, a surgeon and man-midwife, at Harlow aforesaid ; and that he had lain with her twice, thereby meaning that he had twice had the carnal use and knowledge of the body of her the said Ann Saunders ; and he said that he had been very unhappy about it, and had fretted himself very much ; and he then mentioned that he had imprudently wrote
her

her a letter, and that letter had now lately been discovered, and he was afraid that her friends would expose him, and he desired the deponent to go down to the said Mr. Edwards, and endeavour to get the letter delivered up; and that in consideration thereof he would give the said Ann Saunders a pecuniary consideration, or the said James Altham expressed himself in words to that or the like purport and effect; that the deponent thereupon went to the said Mr. Edwards's house, and mentioned the affair to him, and the said Mr. Edwards took the letter out of his pocket-book, and read it to him; and the said letter contained many strong expressions of love and fondness for the said Ann Saunders; but he told the deponent that he could not deliver up the said letter to him, but would deliver it to the said Ann Saunders's sister, thereby meaning Sarah Smith, wife of James Smith, his fellow witnesses; which the deponent believes he soon afterwards did, by reason that the said James Altham sent a message to this deponent by a Mr. Legas, a friend of his, desiring him to use his utmost interest with Smith's family, thereby meaning the said James Smith, Sarah Smith and family, to get the said letter delivered up, which the depo-

deponent endeavoured to do without effect; that William Lushington, Esquire, of Mark Hall, in the said county, took up the matter, and having come to a final agreement with the said James Smith, he appointed to meet him at this deponent's house, to settle; and accordingly, on the appointed day, being about three weeks, as he believes, after the time the deponent was first applied to by the said James Altham respecting the matter, the said William Lushington, James Altham, and James Smith, met at this deponent's house; and the said William Lushington, by the order and direction, as the deponent verily believes, of the said James Altham, and in his presence, and in the presence of this deponent, paid the sum of sixty pounds to the said James Smith; in consideration of his giving up the said letter, and that all matters relating thereto, and to the said Ann Saunders, should be dropped or hushed; and the said James Smith did then deliver up such letter into the hands of the said James Altham: that the deponent remembers mentioning to the said Mr. Lushington, that as the said Ann Saunders was under age, she could not give the said James Altham a general release; and the said Mr. Lushington, as he now best remembers, desired

fired this deponent to write a receipt for the said sixty pounds, which the deponent did, and the same was signed by the said James Smith : and the deponent also remembers the said Mr. Lushington saying to the said James Smith, that all matters were to be dropped relating to the said affair, and that if he heard any discourse hereafter about it, he was to discourage it as much as he could ; or he used words to that or the like effect : that from what he hath before deposed, he doth verily and in his conscience believe the whole series and contents of the aforesaid letter were of the proper hand writing of the said Rev. James Altham ; and he doth also verily believe that the said James Altham twice had the carnal use and knowledge of the body of the said Ann Saunders, and thereby committed adultery ; and further to the said articles he knows not to depose.

To the 17th and 18th articles, he deposes and says, that he remembers being told soon after the affair between the said James Altham and Ann Saunders became public, by Francis Vaux and Samuel Willenor Sammon, parishioners of the said parish of Harlow, that he the said James Altham, in the church-yard of the
said

said parish of Harlow, related the whole affair respecting his connection with the said Ann Saunders, to the articulate Thomas Speed, of Harlow aforesaid, malster; and in particular the said Francis Vaux told the deponent, the said James Altham used a lewd expression relating to the said Ann Saunders. That some time in the month of August or September last, to the best of the deponent's recollection as to the time, the said James Altham in conversation with this deponent on this cause, said that he could declare something in court that would cause a separation between Mr. Wenham and his wife, thereby meaning John Wenham, Esquire, the promoter in this cause, and Elizabeth Wenham his wife, with both of whom the deponent is well acquainted; that previous to the circumstance last mentioned, and on or about the third day of August last, as the deponent now best remembers and believes, the said James Altham, soon after the dinner, came to the tythe feast, or public meeting of the parishioners or inhabitants of the said parish of Harlow, at the Crown Inn, within the said parish, and joined the company; and after some indifferent conversation, the said James Altham began speaking of his amours; and amongst

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other

other things, he publicly affirmed and declared, that Mrs. Wenham, thereby meaning the said Elizabeth Wenham, kissed him ; and the deponent, knowing that they were not upon good terms, asked, 'When ?' and he made answer, "The last time she was at my house ;" and the said James Altham went on speaking very indecently of the said Elizabeth Wenham, in the hearing of several persons, and intimating that her husband, the said John Wenham, was not a sufficient man for her, and that she wanted a better man in a criminal way ; but the deponent does not remember that he said that the said Elizabeth Wenham wanted to lie with him ; for being rather hurt at his discourse, the deponent did not pay particular attention to it ; but the deponent was some weeks afterwards told by one of the parishioners, who was present, that the said James Altham, in express terms, said that the said Elizabeth Wenham wanted him to lie with her, thereby meaning to commit adultery with him ; and further to the said articles he knows not to depose.

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The same witness, on the interrogatories administered on the part of the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause.

To the first interrogatory he answers, that he hath known the said James Altham twenty years and upwards ; that the respondent has been rather intimately acquainted with him ; that the respondent believes him to be about forty-nine years of age ; that to the best of his remembrance and belief, the said James Altham hath lived in the said parish of Harlow for ten or twelve years last past ; that the said James Altham, during all the former part of his life, as the respondent knows of or believes, and until within these three or four years last past, bore the character of a decent, prudent, peaceable and humane man ; and, as he also believes, was esteemed in the parish and neighbourhood of Harlow, and elsewhere, as a worthy, honest and conscientious person ; and, barring his attachment to women, which was generally thought to be the weak part of his character, he was generally esteemed to be a good clergyman ; though the respondent has heard that he used to be rather given to liquor.

To the second interrogatory he answers, that the said James Altham has been married to, and lived and cohabited with two wives, before his present wife; that with respect to his first wife, the respondent never heard what his behaviour to her was; that he has heard, but he cannot form any belief or disbelief concerning the same, that he was rather unkind to his second wife.

To the third interrogatory he answers, that the said James Altham has, within these three or four years last past, been subject to violent passions, and has at times been guilty of several wild and extravagant actions and behaviour, and by some people he has been esteemed as out of his senses; and the respondent himself at times has thought that he has not been right in his head; yet on the day he spoke so very indecently of Mrs. Wenham, and which the respondent has before deposed to, he settled an account of tythes with this respondent, and he then acted very rationally. That after the affair of the said Ann Saunders had broke out, his relations, as the respondent believes, rather thought him affected in his mind, and incapable of performing the function of his office as a clergyman; but the respondent

spondent never heard that they took his affairs wholly into their own hands. That the respondent has heard, and believes, that some time in the month of September, or October last, his behaviour became rather dangerous to his wife; and that he was thereupon put under the care of Dr. Munro, and actually confined in a private mad-house as an insane person; and where he continued, as the respondent hath also heard and believes, upwards of a month.

EDWARD WISE.

5th April, 1782.

The Deposition of John Edwards.

JOHN EDWARDS, of the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex, surgeon and man-midwife, aged thirty-one years, a witness produced and sworn. To the 1st and 4th articles he deposes, and says, he

he has known the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, upwards of seven years, and first came to know him by coming to live in the said parish of Harlow, where the said James Altham then lived, and where he has ever since continued to live : That the said James Altham for several years last past, hath been, and now is, as he verily believes, a priest or minister, in holy orders, of the Church of England; by reason that he hath frequently heard him read the absolution, and perform divine service in the parish church of Harlow aforesaid : That he hath heard and believes he is the incumbent of the living of St. Olave Jewry, London, and is so commonly accounted, reputed, and taken to be : That the said James Altham is now, and for several years last past has been, a married man, and husband to Susanna Altham, formerly Parkhurst, and ever since their marriage they have lived and cohabited together as lawful husband and wife, and always owned and acknowledged each other to be such ; and they were and are so commonly reputed and taken to be ; and by their said marriage they have two children, a son and daughter, living : and further he cannot depose to the said articles.

To

To the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 13th articles, he deposes and says, that some time on or about the month of June last, but more particularly he cannot recollect, he returned to his house, situate in Harlow aforesaid, from visiting a patient, and desired his fellow witness Ann Saunders, who then and for several months before had lived as servant to him, to give him the pen and ink; and she told him she had got it up stairs, and would bring it immediately; that the deponent went up stairs into her bed chamber, and from thence into the opposite room, which was not used; and opening the closet in the said room, he saw several papers lying on a shelf, and among them a letter; that he took up the said letter and found it addressed "Dear Nanny;" and upon carefully viewing and perusing the same, he, from his knowledge of the hand writing of the said James Altham, which he in some measure became acquainted with, from seeing some of his hand writing; and also from another circumstance, which was, that the said James Altham had often very urgently solicited his fellow witness, James Smith, and Sarah Smith his wife, who is own sister to the said Ann Saunders, that they would take away the said Ann Saunders from

from this deponent's service, pretending it was very dangerous for her to stay; he the deponent, from these two circumstances, became perfectly convinced that the whole series and contents of the said letter were wrote by the said James Altham, and meant and intended for the said Ann Saunders; that when the deponent had read the said letter, he put the same in his pocket, and in returning from the closet, as he was going out of the room, he met the said Ann Saunders stepping rather quick, as if she was going into the said room; and the deponent told her he imagined what she was going in search of, alluding to the said letter, and that he had got it in his pocket, and that he was determined to shew it to her sister, thereby meaning the said Sarah Smith; and the said Ann Saunders thereupon begged the deponent to give her the said letter; but the deponent peremptorily refused; and the said Ann Saunders then began crying. That the deponent, on the same day, took an opportunity of calling upon the said James Smith and his wife, and he read to them the contents of the said letter, but did not then give it them: that on the morning of the next day, the deponent met the said James Altham, and desired to speak with him, and they

they walked out in the fields together; that after some leading conversation on the deponent, respecting the connection of the said James Altham with the said Ann Saunders, he, the said James Altham, confessed that he had lain with the said Ann Saunders, thereby meaning that he had had the carnal use and knowledge of of her body; and the deponent then mentioned his finding the said letter; and he confessed he had wrote her a letter. That the deponent a few days afterwards gave the said letter to Sarah Smith, but had previously shewn it to many persons, who, as the deponent verily believes, knew his, the said James Altham's handwriting; and they all agreed in believing it to be his. That a treaty respecting the said letter was soon after, as the deponent believes, begun between William Lushington, Esq; of Mark Hall, in the said county, on the part of the said James Altham; and the said James Smith, and the said William Lushington and James Altham, came to this deponent's house respecting it, and sent for the said James Smith; and the said James Smith accordingly came; that, previous to his coming, Mr. Lushington said, the girl, meaning the said Ann Saunders, ought to have some amends; and the said James Altham

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said,

said, he would give her ten pounds; that Mr. Lushington mentioned that sum to the said James Smith, as a consideration for his giving up the said letter; but the said James Smith said he must consider of it, and consult his wife; that Mr. Lushington then mentioned a larger sum of money; but the said James Smith said he would do nothing without first consulting his wife; and he went away, promising to let Mr. Lushington know his determinations: and a day or two afterwards the deponent heard that the said James Altham had agreed to give the said James Smith the sum of sixty pounds, in consideration of his giving up the said letter; and that the several parties to the said agreement met at the house of the deponent's fellow witness, Mr. Edward Wise, an attorney at Harlow, aforesaid; and the said sum of sixty pounds was paid; and the said letter given up: that the said letter contained many strong expressions and professions of love and fondness for and towards the said Ann Saunders; and amongst others, the said James Altham mentioned therein, that he would never cease to love her as long as he lived; and he therein requested that she would let him be an hour, or a night, alone with her: and

and the deponent particularly remembers the following verses in the said letter, viz.

Dear maid, since thou hast charm'd my sight,
O let my arms thy neck enfold ;
Those breasts so fair, those eyes so bright ;
What joy, what pleasure to behold :

and the deponent does verily believe, that by the words, dear maid, was meant and intended the said Ann Saunders, and no other person whatever: and the said James Altham concluded the said letter, by desiring that she would either burn it, or return it to him. That the said Ann Saunders, soon after the discovery of the said letter, confessed, in the presence and hearing of this deponent and her sister, the said Sarah Smith, that he, the said James Altham, has been connected with her, or to that effect; thereby meaning, that the said James Altham had had the carnal use and knowledge of her body; and the deponent also remembers her mentioning, that the said James Altham had made her a present of a pair of shoe buckles, a pocket book, and other things. That the deponent now remembers, that the said James Altham, at the time he had the conversation before deposed to, with him, said, that he had lain with the said Ann Saunders, in the shrubbery,

behind the deponent's said house; and the deponent hath heard, that he once had the carnal use and knowledge of the body of the said Ann Saunders, in the entry or passage of the deponent's house. That from what he has before deposed, he doth verily and in his conscience believe, that they, the said James Altham and Ann Saunders, have had the carnal use and knowledge of each others bodies, and have thereby committed the crime of adultery, fornication, or incontinency together. That the deponent has also heard the said Ann Saunders say, soon after the discovery of the said letter, but who was by at the time the deponent cannot now recollect, that the said James Altham asked her whether, if he parted with his wife, she would come and live with him; and further to the said article he knows not to depose.

To the 16th article he deposes and says, that he now remembers in the conversation that he had with the said James Altham, before deposed to, that he the said James Altham said, that he was of a very warm constitution, and that he had been concerned with fifty women in the parish, or to that effect; thereby meaning that he had carnally known fifty women

men in the parish of Harlow aforesaid ; and as an instance of the warmth and vigour of his constitution, he told the deponent, that after lying with the said Ann Saunders in the Shrubby, he immediately went home and laid with his wife ; and further he cannot depose to the said article.

The same witness on the interrogatories aforesaid.

To the first interrogatory he answers, that he hath known the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, between seven and eight years : That he never had but a slight acquaintance with him : That the respondent judges him to be near fifty years of age : That he lived in the parish of Harlow aforesaid some years before the respondent : That he believes he is esteemed to be a charitable man : but since the respondent hath known him he ever thought him a restless, imperious, troublesome, over-bearing man : That he believes he was esteemed an honest man ; but the respondent does not think he was at all esteemed as a person of exemplary life and conversation, as a clergyman ; and he never looked upon him as such.

To

To the second interrogatory he answers, that he hath heard and believes, that he the said James Altham hath been married to two wives ; but at the time he the respondent came to live at Harlow, the said James Altham was a widower ; that the respondent never heard any thing to the contrary, but that he treated both his said wives with great love and affection, and was a good husband to them.

To the third interrogatory he answers, that he always thought the said James Altham a wild, inconstant man ; but the respondent never knew, heard, or believed, that he was ever looked upon as a person out of his senses, till after the discovery of his connection with the said Ann Saunders, herein before mentioned : That within these last nine months, the respondent hath heard he hath been guilty of very absurd actions ; but he never heard of the least action of the said James Altham, which could induce him, the respondent to believe that he was an insane person ; and he never heard that it was thought dangerous to trust him alone, or permit him to transact his business. That since the discovery of the affair of the said Ann Saunders, this respondent hath heard, and believes, that he hath preached in the
parish

parish church of Latton, in the said county of Essex: That he hath not performed divine service in the parish church of Harlow since; but the respondent by no means thinks he has been restrained therefrom on account of his being in a state of insanity, but rather through a sense of shame for his conduct. That the respondent hath heard, and believes, that sometime in the shooting season of last year, the said James Altham was put under the care of Dr. Munro, and confined in a private mad-house; but it is suspected, by this respondent, and many other people of the said parish of Harlow, that it has been done by his relations, merely that he may evade the law.

JOHN EDWARDS.

The

5th April, 1780.

The Deposition of William Poole.

WILLIAM POOLE, of Sheering Hall, in the parish of Sheering, in the county of Essex, farmer, aged sixty-six years, a witness produced and sworn.— To the 5th and 19th articles he deposes, and says, that he hath known the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, near thirty years last past; and for twenty years last past, the deponent hath been rather intimately acquainted with him: That he is a married man, and, as the deponent hath heard, and verily believes, a beneficed clergyman within the diocese of London.

And he further saith, that the said James Altham hath for several years last past, lived and resided in the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex, and hath very frequently performed divine service in the parish church of Harlow aforesaid: That on the third day of August last, the parishioners and inhabitants of the said parish of Harlow, held their tythe-feast,

or

or public meeting, at the Crown Inn, in the said parish of Harlow, and this deponent with them: That soon after dinner, the said Rev. James Altham came in and sat down with them, and introduced a conversation about dogs; and said he had a very great passion for dogs, and for women too; and the deponent immediately said to him, "Yes, Mr. Altham, I believe it, and you have paid for it lately;" thereby alluding to his criminal connection with Ann Saunders, spinster, the deponent's fellow witness, and for which he had paid a large sum of money, in order that the matter might be hushed: That the said James Altham then expressed great virulence against the people who had concerned themselves in that matter, and said he would shoot two or three of them if it was not for the law: That the deponent told him he should not talk of shooting people; but that, to be sure, he was a man of great spirit; and the said James Altham immediately took up the deponent, and said he was; and that while he was at College he kept a girl; and the said James Altham mentioned in what way he supported the said girl. And he then said that Mrs. Wenham (thereby meaning Elizabeth Wenham, wife of John Wenham,

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ham,

ham, Esq; the promoter in this cause, and with whom this deponent is well acquainted) was at his house the other day, and kissed him, and smacked him, and said to him, "O my dear Jemmy!" and that, at Dr. Legals's, the other day, she asked him to have her. That, as the deponent now best recollects, his fellow witness, Edward Wise, who was present during all the conversation above mentioned, said to the said James Altham, in a serious manner—"Aye; what can she want to have you for?" and the said James Altham immediately, in the hearing of several of the company present, said, "To roger her;" thereby meaning to have the carnal use and knowledge of the body of the said Mrs. Wenham. That the deponent said to him, "Mr. Altham, do you consider that you are a clergyman, and a justice of peace; and I think that this conversation may give you a great deal of trouble:" but the said James Altham said he did not care for any body; or they, the said James Altham and this deponent, in the course of the above conversation, severally expressed themselves in words to the very same effect. And he lastly saith, that the said James Altham was in general very unguarded in his conversation, and very of-
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ten expressed himself in terms highly improper as a clergyman. That, as before mentioned, he hath heard of his criminal connection with the said Ann Saunders, and from the credit and veracity of the persons who told him, he believes the same to be true. And he hath also heard of his soliciting the chastity of the articulate Mrs. Tavnor, of the said parish of Harlow; and, upon the ground of common report, he believes the same to be true: and further he knows not to depose to the said articles.

*The same witness, on the interrogatories
aforesaid.*

To the first interrogatory he answers, that he has known the Rev. James Altham, party in this cause, almost thirty years: That the respondent is very well acquainted with him, and supposes he may be about fifty years of age: That the said James Altham hath, as the respondent imagines, lived near eight or ten years last past in the said parish of Harlow: That the respondent cannot say that he thinks he bore the character of either a prudent, decent, or peaceable man, during all the former part of his life, until

within these three or four years last past, but he heard of his being charitable:— Neither can the respondent say, that he thinks the said James Altham was generally esteemed in the parish and neighbourhood of Harlow, to be a worthy, conscientious person, of exemplary life and conversation, as a clergyman; on the contrary, the respondent thinks, he was rather generally esteemed as a discredit to his profession: and the respondent himself never thought him of any credit to his profession.

To the second interrogatory he answers, that the said James Altham hath, as he verily believes, been married to, and lived and cohabited with two wives, before his present wife: That the respondent never heard to the contrary, but that he treated both his said former wives with great tenderness and affection, and behaved himself towards them as a good husband.

To the third interrogatory he answers, that there have been many reports within these eight or nine months last past, of the said James Altham acting in an extravagant, wild manner, so as to be deemed an insane person; but the respondent
never

never heard of any such reports before that time : That the said James Altham was always looked upon as a whimsical, inconsistent, passionate man : That this respondent hath not heard, nor does he believe, that in the beginning of the year 1779, as interrogate, he the said James Altham was at all esteemed as a lunatic : That the respondent never heard, nor does he believe, that either in the spring, or beginning of the summer of the year 1779, it was thought dangerous to trust him alone to transact his business : That the reason why he was restrained from performing divine service about that time, was, that the affair respecting the said Ann Saunders came out, and it was then thought highly improper for him to perform that sacred office. That from common report, the respondent doth believe that the said James Altham was on or about the month of September last, put under the care of Dr. Munro, and confined in a private mad-house ; but most people thought, and it is the respondent's opinion, that it was done under a sham, and to screen himself from the law. That the respondent believes, that when his affair with the said Ann Saunders came out, it hurt him in a very great degree, and entirely reduced his reputation as a cler-

clergyman : and the respondent hath heard and believes, that he behaves sometimes wildly after that event.

WILLIAM POOLE.

6th April, 1780.

The Deposition of Ann Tavner.

ANN TAVNER, wife of Francis Tavner, of the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex, aged thirty two years, a witness produced and sworn. To the 14th and 15th articles she deposed and says, that she well knows the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, and has so known him upwards of three years, and first came to know him by seeing him in and about the neighbourhood of the said parish of Harlow, and by hearing him perform divine service in the parish church of Harlow.

And

And she further saith, that some time about the latter end of the year 1776, and she believes it was about the month of November, her husband, the said Francis Tavner, was arrested for a debt, and confined in Chelmsford goal: That the said James Altham heard of it, and came to this deponent, and enquired into her said husband's affairs, and said he would do his utmost to assist him, or to that effect; and he promised always to be a friend to the deponent, and said he would get her husband out of goal in a fortnight's time: That he, after this, began to call upon the deponent very frequently; sometimes every day, and generally three or four days in the week, always repeating his promises of great friendship for this deponent, and her said husband; and that he would very soon procure his liberty: but the said James Altham neglected so to do, and did not procure his enlargement, till near five months after he first spoke to the deponent about it: That in the mean time, the said James Altham went on continually calling upon this deponent, as before mentioned; and he began making very free with the deponent, and taking very great liberties with her, by putting his hands in her bosom, and attempting to put them up her petticoats; and

and he very often solicited the deponent to be criminally acquainted with him; and tried his utmost to prevail over the deponent to consent to gratify his criminal inclinations, by promising what a great friend he would be to the deponent and her said husband: That sometimes, when he had tried every method of persuasion, with the deponent, he would even attempt to force her; and once in particular, and she believes it was sometime in the month of February, in the year 1777, he called upon this deponent in the morning, and began putting his hand in her bosom, and then tried to put his hand up her petticoats, and unbuttoned and opened his breeches; and if the deponent had not resisted to her very utmost, she verily believes he would have carnally known her, and thereby have committed the crime of adultery. That some time in the month of March following, he again endeavoured by force to have the carnal use and knowledge of the deponent's body; but the deponent prevented him by struggling with him, and falling upon her knees with her cloaths under her; and the deponent thought his behaviour so barbarous, that she could not help crying: and the said James Altham then promised that he never would be guilty of the like behaviour

viour towards her again ; and he repeated his promises of great friendship, and assured her that her husband should be at liberty very soon ; or the said James Altham expressed himself to that effect : and in about three weeks afterwards, her said husband, by the procurement of the said James Altham, was released from his confinement in Chelmsford goal, afore-said : That some time in the course of last summer, the said James Altham sent for this deponent, and told her that he would send her husband, the said Francis Taver, to goal, or for a soldier, because he had not paid him more money in part of the debt which her said husband owed him than he had : But the said James Altham never put his threats in execution ;—and further she cannot depose to the said articles.

The same witness on interrogatories.

To the first interrogatory she answers, that she has known the said James Altham about three years and a quarter ; and by his calling so frequently upon the respondent soon after she first knew him, she became well acquainted with him. That he seems about fifty years of age.

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That

That she has heard and believes, he has lived a considerable number of years in the said parish of Harlow, but she cannot say how many. That the said James Altham, until within these three or four years last past, always bore the character of a decent, prudent, charitable man, as far as the respondent ever knew or heard; and was esteemed in the parish and neighbourhood of Harlow, as a worthy, good clergyman.

To the second and third interrogatories she answers, that she has heard and believes that the said James Altham has been married to, and lived and cohabited with, two wives before his present wife; and the respondent never heard any otherwise than that he behaved to them with great tenderness and affection, and was a good husband towards them; that the respondent never heard that it was even suspected that the said James Altham was at all out of his senses, until about last summer, when his affair with his fellow witness, Ann Saunders, broke out: that when that happened, she believes some people thought it drove him out of his mind; but she never heard that he committed any mad action. That she has heard and believes, that since that affair
came

came out, he has been guilty of extravagant actions, such as giving his money away to people who had no great occasion for it. That she never heard, and does not believe that it at any time became dangerous to trust him alone, or permit him to manage his own business; that the respondent hath heard and believes, that since the affair of Ann Saunders came out, he has preached at Latton, in the said county of Essex; but he has not been suffered to preach at Harlow church since, on account of his bad character. That she hath heard that he was confined in a private mad-house some time in the beginning of last winter, and believes it upon common report. But in her own mind, she does not believe it was upon account of his being mad; and she verily believes he never was mad.

ANN TAVNER.

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The

*6th April, 1780.**The Deposition of Sarah Smith.*

SARAH SMITH, wife of her fellow witness James Smith, of Harlow, in the county of Essex, aged twenty-eight years, a witness produced and sworn. To the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th articles, she deposes and says, that she well knows the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, and has so known him upwards of 10 years last past, and first came to know him by his living in the said parish of Harlow, next door to a Dr. Fisher, now deceased, with whom the deponent then lived as a servant, and she has ever since continued to live in the said parish, and the said James Altham has done the like; and this deponent's husband, the said James Smith, has worked for him as a carpenter. She further saith, that some time on or about the month of June last, her fellow witness, John Edwards, who succeeded Dr. Fisher in his house and business of surgeon and man-midwife, and with whom her sister and fellow witness, Ann Saunders, spinster,

fter, then and for some time laſt paſt had lived as ſervant, called upon this deponent, and her ſaid huſband, and told them he had now found out the reaſon why the ſaid James Altham had been ſo anxious to get the ſaid Ann Saunders from his ſervice (and which the ſaid James Altham really had been, having mentioned two or three times to the deponent how improper and dangerous it was for her ſaid ſiſter to continue with the ſaid John Edwards); and the ſaid John Edwards took a letter out of his pocket, which he ſaid he had found in a cloſet in one of his ſpare rooms, and which had been wrote by the ſaid James Altham, to her ſiſter the ſaid Ann Saunders, or he expreſſed himſelf to that effect; and he then read the contents of the ſaid letter over to this deponent and her huſband: and the ſaid letter contained many ſtrong expreſſions and profeſſions of fondneſs and love for and towards the ſaid Ann Saunders; and the deponent was immediately convinced in her own mind, that the whole ſeries and contents of the ſaid letter were wrote by the ſaid James Altham; for a day or two previous to this, he ſent for the deponent to his houſe, and told her that a very diſagreeable circumſtance had happened, which ſhe was quite a ſtranger to;

to; that he had called on her a few days ago, and persuaded her to take her sister, the said Ann Saunders, from Mr. Edwards's, thereby meaning the said John Edwards, on account of his being a single man; and he then said, that he loved her beyond any other woman, and that he had been dying for her eight or nine months, and that that was his reason why he wished the deponent to take her away from the said Mr. Edwards's; that he had even fainted away when he had seen her; and that Mrs. Altham, thereby meaning his wife, had told him she was sure he loved that girl; and that he had confessed it to her: and he then further told the deponent that he had wrote her sister, the said Ann Saunders, a letter, and that he did not know whether the deponent knew of it or not; or the said James Altham expressed himself in words to the very same effect; and he then also confessed he had made her said sister some small presents; and the deponent, after expressing her great surprize at what she heard, and promising to take her said sister away from the said John Edwards, took her leave soon after; and immediately went to her said sister, and questioned her very closely concerning the said James Altham, and she cried very much; but the

the deponent could get nothing out of her, or to confess that the said James Altham had wrote a letter to her: but her behaviour gave the deponent a strong suspicion, that there was something more between the said James Altham and her said sister than she chose to confess. That therefore, when the circumstances of the said John Edwards's bringing the said letter, and reading it to her, happened, she was immediately convinced it was the letter that the said James Altham had confessed he had wrote to her said sister. That the said John Edwards did not then leave the said letter with this deponent or her husband, but gave it to her husband a few days afterwards; and the deponent took possession of it. That when the said James Altham heard of his said letter being so discovered, he endeavoured to get it delivered up to him; and a treaty was thereupon soon after entered into between William Lushington, Esq; of Mark Hall, in the said county of Essex, on the part of the said James Altham, and her husband the said James Smith, for the purpose of obtaining the said letter from them; and on or about the latter end of the said month of June, the said William Lushington and James Altham, and this deponent's husband,
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met at the house of Mr. Wise, an attorney in Harlow aforesaid, and the matter was finally settled; the said James Altham paying her said husband the sum of sixty pounds, and her said husband, in consideration thereof, delivering up the said letter to him.

That during the dependance of that business, her sister, the said Ann Saunders, confessed to her that the said James Altham had once lain with her in the Shrubbery, behind the said John Edwards's house, and another time in the entry or passage of the said house; and she also confessed, before the said John Edwards and this deponent, and her said husband, that Mr. Altham, thereby meaning the said James Altham, had been connected with her. That from such confession, and from what she hath before deposed, she doth verily and in her conscience believe, that the said James Altham had twice the carnal use and knowledge of the body of the said Ann Saunders, and thereby committed the crime of adultery, he being a married man: and further she cannot depose to the said articles.

The same upon interrogatories.

To the first interrogatory she answers, that she has known the said Rev. James Altham, clerk, between ten and eleven years; that she has no other acquaintance with him than as a neighbour; that she supposes him to be about 50 years of age; that the said James Altham hath lived and resided in the said parish of Harlow upwards of eleven years. That she never heard but that the said James Altham, during all the former part of his life, and until within these three or four years last past, bore the character of a decent good sort of a man, and was respected as a clergyman, excepting that she has heard that he was always rather given to women.

To the second interrogatory, she answers, that the said James Altham has been married to, as she verily believes, and lived and cohabited with two wives, before his present wife; and the respondent never heard to the contrary but that he treated both his said wives with great tenderness and affection, and was a good husband to them.

To the third interrotary, she answers, that till the affair of her sister, the said Ann Saunders, came out, she never heard, nor does she believe that the said James Altham ever acted so extravagantly or inconsistently as to be looked upon, or generally esteemed by his neighbours and acquaintance, as a man disordered in his senses. That subsequent to that affair, it hath been reported that he has been disordered in his senses upon the account of it; but whether there is or is not a foundation for such report, she cannot say. That the respondent hath frequently seen him since, but she did not observe that he looked as a person out of his senses. That she never heard that it became dangerous to trust him alone, and improper to permit him to do his own business, or to perform divine service. That the true reason, as she hath heard and believes why he hath not performed divine service as usual in the parish church of Harlow, since the affair of him and her said sister hath come out, is, that the Rev. Mr. North, the rector or vicar of the said parish, and the parishioners, have thought it highly improper.

That

That it was some time about the latter end of last year, that he was confined, as she heard, in a private mad-house; but how long he continued in such mad-house, she does not remember to have heard, but imagines it was no great while; but she cannot form any belief or disbelief concerning the truth of the same; and it is in general reported that his madness is all a deception.

SARAH SMITH.

7th April, 1780.

The Deposition of Thomas Speed.

THOMAS SPEED, of the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex, maltster, aged twenty-six years, a witness produced and sworn. To the 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th and 18th articles, he deposes and says, that he well knows the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause; and has so known him, to the best of his recollection, for these ten years last past; and first came to know him by his coming to live in the parish of Harlow, and where the said James Altham hath ever since lived and resided.

And he further saith, that on a day, which happened some time about the latter end of the month of June last, to the best of his recollection as to the time, as the said James Altham was coming up the street by the deponent's house, situate in the said parish of Harlow, he saw the deponent, and entered into conversation with him; and after mentioning that some one had stole a chain from off a gate, and that

that if he could find the person out, he would prosecute him, or to that effect. He desired the deponent would walk with him; and they walked together in Harlow church-yard; and he began asking this deponent whether he had heard of that affair; and the deponent asked him whether he meant the affair between him and Ann Saunders, thereby alluding to his criminal connection with his fellow witness Ann Saunders, spinster, whom the deponent well knows, and who had lived as servant to his fellow witness John Edwards, a surgeon and man-midwife, in Harlow; and the said James Altham made answer, that he did; and then told the deponent he certainly had lain with her; thereby meaning that he had had the carnal use and knowledge of the body of the said Ann Saunders; and that she was very willing that he should: and upon the deponent's saying that he had heard the said James Altham had found the said Ann Saunders a maid; he replied, no, by God; she was as open as that pond; pointing to a pond near the said church-yard. And upon the deponent's mentioning that he thought his conduct very unbecoming in one of his cloth, he in answer said, he was a man of very warm and vigorous constitution, and that he had
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lain with a woman five times within an hour and an half; thereby meaning he had carnally known a woman so many times. He then went on, and told the deponent, a certain lady, not a hundred miles off, had been familiar with him; and that, if it should be discovered, it would cause a separation between that lady and her husband; and he the deponent then apprehended, and verily believes, that he then spoke of, and meant and intended, Elizabeth Wenham, wife of John Wenham, Esq; of Harlow aforesaid, the promoter in this cause: and the deponent chiefly grounds his apprehensions and belief upon the said Mr. and Mrs. Wenham's passing by the place where he, the deponent, and the said James Altham were, just before he made that assertion. And he also mentioned to the deponent, that he had not had that experience of women that he had, and that there were not three women in the parish but what would whore if they were closely followed; or he, the said James Altham, in the course of his conversation with this deponent, at the time before mentioned, expressed himself in words to that very same effect. And he lastly saith, that from the said James Altham's own confession in the course of the above-men-
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tioned conversation, and from the public notoriety of the affair, he doth verily and in his conscience believe, that the said James Altham, some time on or about the year 1779, had the carnal use and knowledge of the body of the said Ann Saunders, and thereby committed the crime of adultery, he being a married man; and further he knows not to depose to the said articles.

The same witness on interrogatories.

To the first interrogatory he answers, that he has known the said Rev. James Altham, clerk, for upwards of ten years last past, to the best of his recollection as to the time; and by living in the said parish of Harlow, the respondent became well acquainted with him. That he seems drawing near fifty years of age: That he has lived in the said parish, as the respondent best remembers and believes, upwards of ten years. That the respondent never heard to the contrary, but that the said James Altham, during all the former part of his life, and until within these three or four years last past, bore a very good and respectable character, as a man and a clergyman.

To

To the second interrogatory he answers, that the said James Altham hath, as he verily believes, been married to, and lived and cohabited with two wives, before his present wife: And the said respondent remembers his second wife. That he never heard to the contrary, but that the said James Altham treated both his said former wives with great tenderness and affection, and was a very good husband to them.

To the third interrogatory he answers, that the said James Altham had within these three or four years last past, meddled very much in the parish of Harlow, and been rather troublesome, and acted very inconsistently as a clergyman; but the respondent cannot say that he thought him as a man disordered to that degree in his senses, as to be deemed an insane person; nor does he know that he was generally esteemed as an insane person; and the respondent is rather inclined to think he was not. That in the course of the last year, the respondent hath heard some people say, that the said James Altham was certainly out of his mind; and other people, on the other hand say, that he was not; but that his conduct proceeded from a turbulent disposition: but the respon-

respondent never heard that it was thought dangerous to trust him alone, or to let him have the management of his concerns, to the best of his recollection. That after the affair of Ann Saunders came out, which was in the course of last summer, the respondent remembers the said James Altham telling him, that he would never preach again in Harlow church. That the respondent hath heard that the said James Altham some time about the shooting season of last year, was put under the care of Dr. Munro : That the respondent remembers his telling him some little time before that event, that he would give his wife a bird ; and he then appeared to be, and was, as the respondent believes, in his right senses, and talked and discoursed rationally and sensibly. That, upon the whole, the respondent does not deem himself sufficiently informed so as to say whether he believes, or disbelieves, that the said James Altham hath been, within this year last past, so disordered in his senses as to be thought and esteemed an insane person, by his relations, friends and acquaintance.

THOMAS SPEED.

7th April, 1780.

The Deposition of Mary Speciall.

MARY SPECIALL, of Bishop Stortford, in the county of Hertford, spinster, aged thirty years, a witness produced and sworn. To the 20th article she deposes and says, that she has personally known the Rev. James Altham, clerk, of the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex, party in this cause, several years; but never had any acquaintance with him. That during the time of Hatfield fair, at Hatfield Broad Oak, in the said county of Essex, and she well remembers, it was on the fifth day of August last, she this deponent came from Bishop Stortford in the afternoon of the same day, in order to attend the fair; and called upon a Mr. Steward at Hatfield aforesaid, and there found John Wenham, Esq; the promoter in this cause, Elizabeth Wenham, his wife, and her fellow witness, a Miss Nicholson, with all of whom this deponent was well acquainted. That they proposed going to the fair before

fore tea drinking, and the deponent went with them; but the said Mr. Wenham did not go with them, but came after them. That as they were going through Hatfield church-yard, Mrs. Wenham said she thought she heard her husband, the said Mr. Wenham's voice; and upon turning back, she saw Mr. Wenham and the said Rev. James Altham talking together in a lane near the said church-yard; and that Mrs. Wenham immediately went up to them, and in the hearing of this deponent, Miss Nicholson, the said Mr. Wenham, and other persons, and addressing herself to the said Reverend James Altham, said, "Sir, will you say that I kissed you, and called you my dear Jemmy;" and the said James Altham made answer, that he would say it: That thereupon the said Mrs. Wenham gave him a slap of the face; and said, if he said so again, she would give him another. And he said he would say it again, and take his sacrament of it; or he the said James Altham expressed himself in words to the very same effect; and further she knows not to depose to the said article.

The same witness on interrogatories.

To the first interrogatory she answers, that she has known the said Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, by sight, some years; but hath no acquaintance whatever with him. That to appearance he looks to be between forty and fifty years of age. That she believes he has lived some years in the said parish of Harlow, but she cannot say how many; and further to the said interrogatory she knows not to answer.

To the second and third interrogatories she answers, that she has heard that the said James Altham has been married to, and lived and cohabited with, two wives before his present wife. That, as before mentioned, she has no acquaintance whatever with the said James Altham, and only knows him by sight; and knows not further to answer to the said interrogatories.

MARY SPECIALL.

8th April, 1780.

The Deposition of Jane Nicholson.

JANE NICHOLSON, of the parish of Harlow, in the county of Essex, spinster, aged twenty three years and upwards, a witness produced and sworn. To the twentieth article she deposes and says, that she knows the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, and has known him upwards of seven years; and first came to know him by his visiting John Wenham, Esq; the promoter in this cause, at his house situate at Harlow aforesaid, where this deponent for the most part lives, and resides; and she further saith, that last Hatfield fair, at Hatfield Broad-oak, in the said county of Essex, and she believes it was on the fifth day of August last, she, this deponent, and the said Mr. Wenham, and Elizabeth Wenham his wife, dined at the house of a Mr. Steward, situate in Hatfield aforesaid; and soon after dinner it was proposed to take a walk to the fair, and they accordingly sat out, and her fellow witness, Miss Speciall, with them, who had come in just after dinner;

dinner; that in order to lengthen their walk, they intended going through Hatfield church yard; and the said Mr. Wenham followed them at some little distance behind; that in the way, leading to the said church yard, they met the said Rev. James Altham, and some company with him; that they had not passed him many paces before the said Mrs. Wenham turned, and said, she thought she heard the said Mr. Wenham's voice; and upon looking back she saw the said James Altham and Mr. Wenham talking together; that the said Mrs. Wenham immediately went up to them, and addressing herself to the said James Altham, said, "And dare you say that I kissed you and called you my dear Jemmy;" and the said James Altham made answer, "yes, I did, and I will swear to it." That the said Mrs. Wenham thereupon struck him a slap on the face, and then asked him, "Will you now say it;" and the said James Altham said he would say it, and take his sacrament of it; or they the said James Altham and Mrs. Wenham expressed themselves in words to the very same purport and effect; and the deponent verily and in her conscience believes, that by the words he, the said James Altham, then made

made use of in answer to the said Mrs. Wenham, he thereby meant to defame the character of the said Mrs. Wenham; and further she cannot depose to the said article.

The same witness on interrogatories.

To the first interrogatory she answers, that she has known the said Rev. James Altham, between seven and eight years; that her acquaintance with him is only slight; that she supposes he may be upwards of forty; that he has lived in the said parish of Harlow, as she believes, a considerable number of years, but she cannot say how many. That till within these few years last past, the respondent never knew or heard any thing particularly good or bad in his character, nor can she form a belief or disbelief concerning the same.

To the second interrogatory, she answers, that she has heard that the said James Altham has been married to, and lived and cohabited with, two wives before his present wife; and she never heard but that he conducted himself as a good husband towards them.

To

To the third interrogatory she answers, that she has heard and believes, that the said James Altham has, for more than these three or four years last past, acted very inconsistently, and been guilty of many improprieties of conduct and behaviour; but the respondent never judged them to proceed from insanity; and she never heard it even hinted, till after the circumstance which she has before deposed to have happened at Hatfield fair, he was an insane person: that she never heard that it became dangerous to trust him alone, or not suffer him to transact his own business; that she has heard that he continued to perform the functions of his office as a clergyman, after the circumstance before deposed to. That it has been said, that he was some time, about the shooting season of last year, put under the care of Dr. Munro, as an insane person, but with what truth the respondent cannot take upon herself to judge,

JANE NICHOLSON.

heard him read the epistolary and
minister the sacrament, according to the
nominal book of Common 2d May 1780,
and the said James Altham was
The Deposition of James Taylor.

JAMES TAYLOR, of the Old
Jewry, in the parish of St. Olave Jewry,
London, cordwainer, aged fifty seven
years, a witness produced and sworn. To
the first article of the said articles, he de-
poses and says, that he now is, and for
upwards of twelve years last past has been,
parish clerk, of St. Olave Jewry; to
which the parish of St. Martin, Iron-
monger Lane, London, is annexed by act
of parliament, that by means thereof, and
by living in the said parish of St. Olave
Jewry, he became well acquainted with
the Rev. James Altham, clerk, the party
proceeded against in this cause, who,
long before this deponent was made clerk
of the united parishes of St. Olave
Jewry, and St. Martin Ironmonger-lane,
aforesaid, was, and ever since has conti-
nued to be, and now is a priest or mi-
nister in holy orders of the church of
England, as he verily believes, by reason
that he frequently heard him perform
divine service in the church belonging to
the said parishes, and particularly hath
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heard him read the absolution, and administer the sacrament, according to the form prescribed in the book of Common Prayer; and the said James Altham was at the time he the deponent so became clerk of the said parish; and is now vicar and incumbent of the said united parishes, and hath been as he verily believes rightly and lawfully instituted in and to the vicarage of the said parish of St. Olave Jewry, and rectory of the said parish of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, and inducted into the real, actual, and corporal possession thereof; and for, and as the lawful vicar of the said vicarage of St. Olave Jewry, and rector of the said rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, he the said James Altham hath for many years last past been, and now is, commonly accounted, reputed, and taken to be; and further he cannot depose to the said article.

JAMES TAYLOR.

3d May, 1780.

The Deposition of Arthur Dawes.

ARTHUR DAWES, of Mile End, in the county of Middlesex, clerk, aged forty-five years, a witness produced and sworn. To the first article of the said articles, he deposes and says, that he has known and been acquainted with the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, upwards of twenty years; and the deponent remembers him a student of St. John's College, in the University of Oxford. That the deponent does now officiate, and for upwards of twenty years last past has officiated, as curate of the parish of St. Olave Jewry, London, to which the parish of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, London, is annexed by act of parliament, within the diocese of London. That about two years after the deponent first officiated as such, the said Rev. James Altham was, as he verily believes, rightly and lawfully instituted in and to the vicarage of the said parish of St. Olave Jewry, and rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane,

and inducted into the real, actual and corporeal possession thereof; and he hath ever since continued to be the incumbent of the said united parishes; and for and as such, he hath ever since been, and now is commonly accounted, and reputed and taken to be, as he verily believes, a priest, or minister, in holy orders of the Church of England; by reason that the deponent has seen his letters of orders, and hath frequently heard him perform divine service in the church belonging to the said parishes: particularly, the deponent hath heard the said Rev. James Altham read the absolution, and administer the sacrament, in the said church; and further he cannot depose to the said article.

ARTHUR DAWES.

The

2d May, 1780.

The Deposition of James Taylor.

JAMES TAYLOR, of the Old Jewry, in the parish of St. Olave Jewry, London, cordwainer, aged fifty-seven years, a witness produced and sworn, and heretofore examined upon the articles given in and admitted in this cause. To the first article of the said allegation, and to the exhibit, or paper writing, marked with the letter A, therein pleaded and exhibited, and now produced and shewn to the deponent, he saith, that as by him mentioned in his deposition, to the first article of the articles, or interrogatories, admitted in this cause, and to which he refers, he is well acquainted with the Rev. James Altham, clerk, the party against whom this cause is promoted; and from what he hath there deposed, he doth verily believe, that James Altham, clerk, mentioned in the said exhibit, and the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, was, and is, one and the same person, and not divers: and that the
vicarage

vicarage of St. Olave, in the Old Jewry, united to the rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, London, and diocese of London, mentioned in the said exhibit, and the vicarage of St. Olave Jewry, rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, by him mentioned in his said deposition, was, and is, one and the same ecclesiastical preferment, and not divers; and further he knows not to depose to the said article.

JAMES TAYLOR.

the Rev. Mr. James Altham. 87

3d May 1780.

The Deposition of Arthur Dawes.

ARTHUR DAWES, of Mile end, in the county of Middlesex, clerk, aged forty five years, a witness produced and sworn, and examined, on the articles admitted in this cause. To the first article of the said allegation, and to the paper writing or exhibit marked with the letter A therein pleaded and exhibited, and now produced and shewn to, and carefully read over, by the deponent, he saith that he verily believes the same to be a copy of the act of court, on the admission and institution of the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, and whom this deponent is well acquainted with, as by him set forth in his deposition. To the first article of the articles or interrogatives given in, and admitted in this cause, and to which he refers to the vicarage of the parish church of St. Olave, in the Old Jewry, united to the rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, London, and diocese of London, and that all things were so had

had and done as therein contained; and he hath not the least doubt, but that James Altham, clerk, therein mentioned, and the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, was and is one and the same person, and not divers, and that the vicarage of St. Olave in the Old Jewry, united to the rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger Lane, London, and diocese of London, mentioned in the said exhibit, and the vicarage of St. Olave Jewry, and rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger Lane, London, mentioned in his aforesaid deposition, was and is one and the same ecclesiastical preferment, and not divers: and further he cannot depose to the said article.

ARTHUR DAWES.

The

9th May 1780.

The Deposition of Samuel Bristoll.

SAMUEL BRISTOLL, of Doctors Commons, London, gentleman, aged eighteen years, a witness produced and sworn. To the said allegation, and to the paper writing or exhibit, marked with the letter A, therein pleaded and exhibited, and now produced and shewn to the deponent, he saith, that he is clerk to Mr. Mark Holman, the deputy register of the consistorial and episcopal court of London, and the said exhibit is all of this deponent's own proper hand writing, excepting the subscription, "Mark Holman, Deputy Register," appearing thereto, and interlineation of the words "in the old," appearing in the body thereof; and the same is a true and authentic copy of the act of court, on the admission and institution of the Rev. James Altham, clerk, therein mentioned, to the vicarage of the parish church of St. Olave in the Old Jewry, united to the rectory of St. Martin, Ironmonger-Lane, London, and diocese of London, and doth

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agree

agree with it's original now remaining of record in the registry of the Consistorial Court of the Lord Bishop of London, he this deponent having very carefully examined the same therewith; and the same is subscribed by and with the proper hand-writing of the said Mr. Holman, as deputy-register of the said court, this deponent well knowing the hand-writing and subscription of the said Mr. Holman, by having frequently seen him write and subscribe his name; and full faith and credit is always given to the subscription of the said Mr. Holman, as deputy register of the said court; and further he cannot depose to the said allegation.

SAMUEL BRISTOLL.

Mark Holman, Deputy Register, appearing thereto, and interposing in the words "in the old," appearing in the body thereof; and the same is a true and authentic copy of the act of court, on the admission and institution of the Rev. James Altham, clerk, therein mentioned, to the vicarage of the parish church of St. Olave in the Old Jewry, united to the rectory of St. Martin, Vintry, London, and diocese of London, and both

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20th August, 1781.

The Deposition of Mary Church.

MARY CHURCH, wife of John Church, farmer, of Matching, in the county of Essex, aged fifty-nine years, a witness produced and sworn. To the 1st, 2d, and 3d articles of the said allegation, she deposes and says, she hath known the Rev. James Altham, clerk, party in this cause, for these eighteen years last past, and first knew him before he was married at all. That she remembers, for several years, hearing him do duty as a clergyman, both in the parish church at Matching, where she then did and does now live, and also in the parish church of Shearing, the next adjoining parish; at both which places the said James Altham used to perform the service of the church, in a manner very much approved of and admired. And the deponent well remembers his being twice married before his marriage with his present wife. That his first wife was a Miss Altham, of Mark Hall; and during the time of his marriage with his said first

M 2 wife,

wife, he and his said wife lived and resided together at Mark Hall, with Mrs. Altham's mother, as the deponent hath always understood and believe: That after the said Mr. Altham's marriage with his second wife, they lived and resided together in the parish of Harlow, till her death: and after her death, and since his marriage with the present wife, he the said James Altham hath lived, and does now live, in the parish of Harlow aforesaid.

And the deponent further saith, that within these four years she hath seen and observed that the said James Altham hath been very much altered in his manners, and hath appeared to be disturbed and uneasy in his mind; and such disorder and complaint hath gradually increased since, insomuch that within these two years past, or rather more, the deponent hath seen such strange and unaccountable behaviour in him, that she hath been surpris'd his friends and relations have suffered him to go about alone and have his liberty; as she looked upon his conduct to be the consequence of an insane and unsound, agitated state of mind. That before she observed such disorder to come upon him, he always behaved as a clergyman in every respect,

respect, in a decent, proper and exemplary manner, and was much beloved and esteemed by his parishioners and neighbours; and was admired in the manner of his performance of his duty, in the desk and pulpit; and he also, so far as deponent knows or ever heard, behaved as a husband, in a very proper, affectionate and tender manner, and lived and cohabited with all his wives upon terms of the greatest harmony and affection.

And the deponent further saith, she hath heard that a song was handed about Harlow fair time, but how long back she cannot particularly say, respecting the said James Altham; and describing him as a madman, and being subject to mad fits; but who were the authors of such song, she knows not: That the said James Altham himself hath spoken to her of such song, and complained to her of such song being published of him; and the thought of it then appeared to disturb and agitate him very much indeed, and to cause him much uneasiness; and further to the said articles she cannot depose.

To the 4th and 5th articles she deposes and says, that during the year 1778 she might

might see the said James Altham perhaps three or four times, when he used to call at the deponent's house, either to ask the deponent how she and her family did, as he rode by, or to visit the Rev. Mr. Dearling, the vicar of Matching, who then lodged with the deponent. And during the year 1779, and since that time, deponent hath not seen the said James Altham. Within the period above-mentioned, she always looked upon and considered the said Mr. Altham as a person in a very unsettled and disturbed state of mind, and quite insane, and always grave: that was her opinion of him, to every one she ever talked to on the subject. And the deponent remembers once in particular, two years ago last May, the said James Altham called at the gate on horseback, and kept talking incessantly, for two hours together, and rambling from one subject to another, and so as not to allow deponent time to join in the conversation, or make answer: and among other things on that occasion, deponent remembers his mentioning he had had a thought of making away with himself; but, he thanked God, he had prevented him. That he also cried much; and said he had done a thing by which he had dishonoured Mrs. Altham and himself

self very much ; but that he had prayed to God, and God had forgiven him : and then added, I know he has forgiven me, and how do you think I know it ; I have lately had a large sum of money left me ; and do you think that would have happened if God had not forgiven me ; or he then expressed himself to that effect ; and then rambled quite to another subject about horses, and how well he could ride and manage a horse ; and that he was going to Matching Hall, to buy a horse ; and a good deal more discourse, rambling from one subject to another, the greatest part of which the deponent cannot now recollect. And further to the said article she cannot depose.

To the twenty second and twenty third articles she deposes and says, that during this last spring the deponent saw the said James Altham only once, when he stopped at the deponent's gate at Matching aforesaid, and talked with her a little while, and seemed much more calm, composed, and sensible, than the deponent had before seen him for sometime, except once, that the deponent saw him before about Michaelmas preceding, at his own house, at which times he appeared calm and composed, but yet much dejected

dejected and low spirited. That the last time the deponent so saw him, he mentioned a proposal for matters being made up between him and a certain lady, meaning, as this deponent understands, Mrs. Wenham, at which he appeared much pleased, and talked of leaving the neighbourhood, if that would satisfy Mrs. Wenham; and if he could settle himself in a country village, or to that effect. And from all the deponent hath ever known or seen of the said James Altham, and from the character and esteem he hath always borne in this neighbourhood, the deponent's opinion of him is such, that she does not in her conscience believe he would, when in a calm and composed state of mind, and capable of knowing and reflecting on what he said and did, commit, or be guilty of any action or excess of a criminal nature; and that if he even hath been guilty of any such, it must have been at a time when he was in a very disturbed, unsettled and agitated state of mind, and incapable of knowing or reflecting on what he said or did at the time. And further to the said articles she cannot depose.

*The same witness on interrogatories
aforesaid.*

First, the witness saith, that her opinion of the oath taken by her in this cause, is, that she thereby calls upon God to witness, that every thing she shall say, on her examination, in this cause is the truth, and nothing but the truth, and that by deviating from the truth, she shall certainly be guilty of a crime offensive to God; and the witness was reminded and required to answer these interrogatories as directed.

To the second interrogatory she answers as to herself absolutely and entirely in the negative; and as to any or either of her fellow-witnesses, in the negative also, to the best of her knowledge and belief.

To the third, she answers, that the Rev. Dr. Altham, vicar of Latton, near Harlow, is the brother of the producent, and William Lushington, Esq; of Mark Hall, in the parish of Latton, is related to the family by marriage: that those gentlemen are men of good fortune, and,

as the respondent apprehends, are gentlemen of great weight and influence in Harlow, and the neighbourhood thereof, by means of their fortunes, and their being both justices of the peace; but the respondent knows not, nor never heard, and does not believe, that any influence of the producent's family has been in any manner employed over any witness produced on his behalf, or that any relation of his has interfered or exerted any endeavours in any manner to prevent any crimes, or excesses, with which he is charged, from being fully brought to light, or to screen him from punishment for the same.

- To the fourth interrogatory she answers, she knows not, nor hath never heard, of any boasting or declaration at all to the purport or effect of the interrogate.

To the seventh, she answers, that within the three years last past, she hath not, and she knows not, nor hath never heard, that any of her fellow witnesses in this cause have received any kind of gift, gratuity, or benefit whatever, from the producent, or any of his friends or relations, or agents.

To

To the eighth, she answers, that a little before Michaelmas last the producent called at her house, and happened to talk about this cause, and mentioned that he could bring witnesses to prove his head being turned since the affair happened between him and Mr. Wenham, at Hatfield fair, but none before; upon which the respondent observed, Oh! Dear Sir, what can nobody speak to that before; any body I should think might do it safe enough who knew you; upon which he asked the respondent if she could, and whether she would be upon oath, which she replied she could and would do it with all her heart; or the respondent and producent then expressed themselves to that effect. That about Michaelmas last the respondent was at the producent's house, and there met with Mr. Joseph, his attorney, who asked the respondent a question or two, as to how long he had observed the producent to be disturbed, and unsettled in his mind; to which she answered him, about three years, as she now best recollects. That last week, she received a note from the producent, giving her notice to attend at this house as on Monday last; and this is all the conversation or application she has had respecting her

evidence in this cause: that she has not been in any manner desired, instructed, or directed how to give evidence, nor have any or either of her fellow witnesses to her knowledge, information, or belief.

To the tenth, she answers, she has known and been acquainted with the producent at least sixteen years, if not more, and came so to know him by his frequently coming to do duty at Matching, and frequently calling on the Rev. Mr. Dearling, the vicar of Matching, who lodged at the respondent's house, about seventeen years, and till within less than two years last past: that her acquaintance, with the producent, has consisted chiefly in his calling frequently at her house, sometimes to see Mr. Dearling, and at others to see her and her family; but that during the whole of her acquaintance with him previous to the year 1777, as interrogate, she never saw or heard of his being a man of a turbulent, violent, or vindictive spirit, or impatient of restraint, controul, opposition, or contradiction, or accustomed to any unwarrantable indulgence of his passions, or of a capricious, volatile, or uneven temper; that he was always talkative; but

so far from being addicted to cursing or swearing, or to a habit of uttering profane, immoral, indecent, or obscene language, that on the contrary, this respondent hath often heard him talk much against it.

To the eleventh she answers, she is well aware, that it is no uncommon thing for a person of violent passions or irregular conduct to be called a madman; and that when the suspicion of the world is roused, and it's observation set at work, many oddities in such a person, which might before pass unheeded, are by common observers implied erroneously to the effects of madness; but the respondent is not aware or convinced that such an imputation of madness would easily bias or carry away the judgments of those to whom the person alluded to was well and intimately known. And she further answers, that the general behaviour of the producent has not been uniformly violent and extravagant, during the whole of her acquaintance with him, as well previous to the year 1777, as since. That she herself has often imputed insanity to the producent long before she had ever heard the present suit which was brought or intended so to be, and had often talked of and mentioned her thoughts of him to
many

many different persons in her parish and neighbourhood; and she has often talked on the subject to Mr. White, a next door neighbour of her's, who well knew and often saw the producent, and who was of the same opinion, with respect to him, as the respondent. But the respondent knows not, nor never heard that any relations or friends of the producent have industriously propagated any reports of his insanity since the commencement of this cause.

To the fifteenth interrogatory she answers, she does in her conscience believe that the extravagant and strange behaviour, words and actions, which she has observed in the producent at different times, and concerning which she hath herein before deposed, were not occasioned by any violent passion, nor has she any reason whatever to believe or suppose it to be the effect of any other cause whatever, than a natural infirmity.

To the seventeenth she answers, that when the producent called on her in May 1779, as by her mentioned in her deposition, she then thought him in such a state of delirium and insanity, that he was by no means capable of managing or conducting himself or his affairs; and that he
ought

ought to have been under confinement, and not suffered to go about alone: but she never saw him so bad as he appeared to be then, either before or since.

To the twenty-second she answers, she is in her conscience perfectly assured that none of the extravagant or strange actions or expressions of the producent, so far as she has seen, were feigned or put on, or used by him with any design to mislead the judgment of the observer, or incline them to think him insane.

To the thirty-sixth, she answers, she hath never known any thing of any intercourse or connection between the producent and the interrogate, Ann Saunders, except from common report; but before she ever heard any report upon that subject, she often mentioned her opinion of the producent, that he was very flighty and unsettled in his mind; and has heard her neighbour, Mr. White, by her mentioned in her answer to the eleventh interrogatory, give the same opinion of him: and further to the said interrogatory she cannot answer.

MARY CHURCH.

ought to have been under confinement
and not suffered to go about alone: but
the never saw him to bad as he appeared
before on June 22d August, 1781.

The Deposition of the Rev. Henry Haddon.

The Rev. HENRY HADDON, of Abbots Roding, in the county of Essex, clerk, aged about fifty-six years, a witness produced and sworn. To the 4th and 23d articles of the said allegation, he deposes and says, that he hath known the Rev. James Altham, articulate, the producent in this cause, for some years by sight, but never came to be acquainted with him, or to be in his company at all, till just after the death of Dr. Fisher, of Harlow (which happened three years ago last May) who was next door neighbour of the producent: but about two months after Dr. Fisher's death, Mr. Mason, a relation of the deponent, went to reside in his house; and the deponent was often there for a night or two at a time. Mr. Mason's family, and the producent's family visiting, the deponent became thereby acquainted with the producent, and was several times in company there; and the deponent and the producent living six or seven miles distance, have since that,

so far kept up their acquaintance as to visit at each others houses perhaps three or four times in a year, or more. That during such acquaintance, and since the deponent hath been in company with the said James Altham, he observed him at different times to be in very different frames of mind; sometimes very low spirited and dejected, and complaining of illness, and pains in his head; and at other times quite volatile and high; and at those times he would behave and talk very unaccountably, and would talk surprisingly quick and incessantly, and so as not to let any one else join in any conversation with him; and on such occasion his discourse would run so from one subject into another, without any meaning, that it was quite troublesome to those he happened to be in company with. And the deponent always thought, that such conduct of the producent, and his manner of talking and running on so, was the effect of a flighty, unsettled and disturbed state of mind; and that he did not reflect on, or consider, what he said or did at the time; and further to the said articles he cannot depose; save that he was in company once with the producent at Hatfield fair, in August 1779, when he was met by Mr. John Wenham,

the promoter of the office of the judge in this cause, who then asked him, what he meant by taking his wife's character away, and spreading a report about Harlow, that she had taken him round the neck, and kissed him; to which he answered, he had not said so, but that what he had said, was, that the last time Mrs. Wenham saw him at the gate, she came up to him and kissed him, or to that effect. That Mr. Wenham thereupon called Mrs. Wenham up, and the producent repeating before her what he had before said, Mrs. Wenham immediately assaulted and beat him with all the violence she was mistress of, without his avoiding or attempting to defend himself from her; but only lifted up his hands, and exclaiming, see! see! see! That some time afterwards, and in consequence of that accident, the producent appeared to be in great apprehension and terror, and uneasiness of mind, and expressed fears about going home, lest he should be way-laid or molested; and in that kind of situation the deponent left him there.

HENRY HADDON.

The same on the interrogatories aforesaid.

To the third interrogatory he answers, he knows the Rev. Dr. Altham, the producent's

ducent's brother, lives at Harlow, and is a respectable man, and as he supposes a man of influence in the neighbourhood; but he knows not, nor never heard, that any influence of any of the producent's relations have interfered, or exerted any endeavours whatever to the purport interrogate.

To the fourth interrogatory he answers he has heard the producent himself say, that he had a friend, or relation, in the Commons, on whom he could depend for the best advice and direction how to act in this cause; but that he never heard him or any relation or friend of his to make any other kind of boast or declaration at all to the purport or effect interrogate.

To the eighth he answers, that on or about the 13th instant, a letter from the producent came to his neighbour and fellow witness, Mr. Wise, desiring him and the respondent to attend here on the present commission, and give their evidence in this cause; and the next day the respondent himself received a letter from the producent, containing the same request; and from the contents of such letter, the respondent understood the evidence he should be required to give was to be what he saw pass between the producent and Mrs. Wenham at Hatfield

fair on the 5th of August, 1779, on which occasion the respondent was present. That he has not, nor does he know or believe that any of his fellow witnesses have, received any kind of instruction or direction whatever, how to give evidence in this cause.

To the tenth he answers, he hath known the producent many years, by living in the same country, and meeting him at the Visitation, and public meetings of that kind; but never became acquainted with him till about three years ago; when Mr. Mason, a relation of the respondent's, took a house next door to him, where the respondent sometimes met with, and was in company with him: And since that, the respondent's intimacy with him hath extended no farther than an occasional visit now and then to him at his house, which he has two or three times returned at the respondent's. That since the respondent hath so known him, he hath been much addicted to talking when in spirits: That he looks upon him to be of rather a passionate turn, and soon put up; and he hath sometimes heard him make use of an oath, but not to be much addicted to it, or to be in any habit of uttering profane, immoral, indecent, or obscene language; and further to the said interrogatory he
has

has not had any opportunity of judging, so as to be able to answer.

To the eleventh interrogatory he answers, he does think that in the minds and opinions of mankind in general, an imputation of madness might be fixed on any person of violent passions and irregular conduct, without any great difficulty; and that when such imputation is fixed, the world in general are more apt to notice and observe any singularity of dress, manner and behaviour of such a person, than they would have done before; and to impute any such singularities, or any ebullitions of passions, to the effect of madness, and often, perhaps, erroneously. And he further answers, that since he hath been acquainted with the producent, his behaviour has not been uniformly violent and extravagant; but he has sometimes seen him very calm and composed. That not knowing when this cause was commenced, or intended to be brought, he cannot say whether the talk and report of the producent's insanity took place before or since that time; but he hath heard of such reports, and hath heard people give their opinion of him to that effect, at least three years ago. That he hath never heard that the relations or friends of the producent have industriously

ously propagated any reports of his insanity since the commencement of this suit.

To the thirteenth, he answers, that none of the particulars thereby enquired after, have ever come within his knowledge, nor can he answer thereto any further, than from common hear-say and report.

To the fifteenth, he answers, that the extravagant and strange kind of discourse and behaviour, which he hath observed in the producent, he looks upon him to have been the effect of a flighty, unsettled, and disturbed state of mind, and of uneasiness; and he thinks it natural enough, that the report which did prevail, of the producent's criminal correspondence with the interrogate Ann Saunders, might cause such uneasiness and disturbance in his mind, but whether that really was the cause of it or not, he cannot take upon him to say.

To the sixteenth, he answers, that the instances of extravagance in the words or actions of the producent, which he hath deposed to, he attributed at the time to be caused to a flighty, unsettled, and disturbed state of mind.

To the seventeenth, he answers, he has seen the producent, when he himself
men-

mentioned to the respondent, he was so bad he was not able to attend, or manage his own affairs, or to do any business of any kind, and that he was obliged to leave his affairs to the management of others: but further he cannot take upon himself to swear to the purport interrogate.

To the eighteenth, he answers, he never saw or observed the producent to be a person prone to ridicule, or fond of relating strange incongruous or incredible tales, or much addicted to rhodomontade; nor does he attribute the odd extravagant expressions or discourse which he hath heard the producent make use of, to be the effect of any peculiar disposition or turn of mind of that kind.

To the twenty-second interrogatory he answers, he is in his conscience well assured and convinced, that none of the extravagant or strange discourse or behaviour of the producent, which he never saw was feigned or put on or used with the design of misleading the judgment of the observers, or to induce them to think him insane.

To the twenty-third, he answers, that the producent is a very adroit, active, little man, and hath heard he is fond of dancing, but he never saw him dance, or jump, or skip about. To

To the twenty-fourth, he answers, he has often heard the producent speak of the dissenters with great dislike and aversion, but whether he is a bigot in his disposition or not, the respondent cannot say.

To the twenty-fifth interrogatory, he answers, he hath seen the interrogate Mr. Parkhurst, the producent's father in-law, at the producent's house, and looks upon him to be a man of great learning; and and he hath heard the producent speak of his learning and abilities in very high terms.

HENRY HADDON.

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